



AARP Connecticut
21 Oak Street
Suite 104
Hartford, CT 06106

T 1-866-295-7279
F 860-249-7707
TTY 1-877-434-7598

[www.aarp.org/\[ct\]](http://www.aarp.org/[ct])

AARP Testimony on
H.B. 5386: AAC CARE COORDINATION FOR CHRONIC DISEASE
Public Health Committee
March 5, 2014

AARP is a nonpartisan social mission organization with an age 50+ membership of nearly 37 million nationwide, and over 603,000 here in Connecticut. AARP believes that one's possibilities should never be limited by their age and that, in fact, age and experience can expand your possibilities. AARP is a network of people, tools and information and an ally on issues that affect the lives of our members and the age 50+ population as a whole. A major priority for AARP is to improve health care delivery and care coordination for those with chronic conditions and health care needs.

AARP supports efforts to improve efficient delivery of optimal care for beneficiaries with chronic illness and disabling conditions that encourage:

- appropriate use of evidence-based interventions;
- interdisciplinary care teams composed of physicians, nurses, social workers, dietitians, therapists, pharmacists and others;
- appropriate use and timely monitoring of medications;
- greater affordability of medications;
- accelerated adoption of health information technology that contributes to improved care;
- rapid dissemination of information and adoption of effective, evidence-based chronic care interventions;
- support to family caregivers to help them become effective partners with professionals;
- greater emphasis on chronic care in clinical education and continuing education of health care professionals; and
- effective use of the health care workforce

H.B. 5386 provides an opportunity to bring a variety of key constituencies to the table to analyze and recommend improvements for chronic care management and reduced incidence of chronic disease. However, AARP encourages the Committee to strengthen the proposal by modifying section 1(a) to require consultation with consumer representatives and patients with chronic conditions. In order to have meaningful dialogue and actionable policy recommendations, key constituencies including consumers, must have meaningful voice in the process.

There is an urgent and compelling need to address the poor care and high costs of those with chronic conditions. In 2005, more than 70 million Americans ages 50 and older—four out of five older adults—suffered from at least one chronic condition. More than half of older adults

have two or more chronic conditions and 11 million live with five or more chronic conditions. A 2003 study found that, on average, U.S. adults received only 56 percent of recommended services for chronic conditions. While progress has been made, there are large gaps in the quality and delivery of health care for people with chronic illness. Chronic conditions are costly for patients and payers; individuals with chronic conditions account for 83 percent of all health care spending.

H.B. 5386 addresses the critical need for research to inform optimal methods of service delivery and monitor health outcomes. AARP supports an inclusive stakeholder process that brings together health care providers, public officials, and consumers to recommend policy changes for the reduction of chronic disease in our state and improve care coordination for those with chronic diseases.

Thank you.

Find AARP Connecticut Online at: www.aarp.org/ct



FB.com/AARPCT



@AARPCT



Youtube.com/AARPCT